

Information for professional stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists applying to the Canada Council for the Arts

Who can apply?

Professional stand-up, improv and sketch comedy arts do not have a dedicated field of practice at the Canada Council for the Arts, however the Council understands that a broad definition of theatre or literature can include forms practiced by stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists such as improvisational theatre or solo creation. The Council also recognizes that many stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists have professional training and experience as theatre artists or literary writers.

Applicants from the stand-up, improv and sketch comedy arts communities who respond to current eligibility criteria in theatre or literary arts are welcome to register for a profile at any time through the Council's Application portal: <https://apply.canadacouncil.ca/>. Support is available for assistance with registration in the portal and to navigate the programs.

Applications will be evaluated based on the published assessment criteria of each component.

Tips for stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists when applying to the Canada Council

- The Council encourages stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists who are applying for the first-time to explore their eligibility to the recently launched New and Early Career Artists profile, which has more accessible eligibility criteria and give access to three components in the Explore and Create program.
- The Council also encourages eligible stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists to consider applying to the recently created Creation Accelerator, a two phase pilot to support the development, creation, and sharing of original digital content for potential distribution on CBC/Radio-Canada's digital platforms.
- When applying, instead of focusing on the potential commercial success of the work, focus on creative development, risk-taking, artistic innovation, pushing boundaries and reaching new audiences.
- Stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists who satisfy the theatre or literary arts profile can also self-nominate to participate in the Council's peer assessment process through the Council's Application portal: <https://apply.canadacouncil.ca/>. Stand-up, improv and sketch comedy artists, whether they intend to apply to the Council or not, are encouraged to submit their candidacy.

The Canada Council welcomes feedback on the experience of applicants with the granting process at any time.